

TEST BENCH > Digital photo frames

PC PRODUCTS / GADGETS & GEAR / COMPONENTS

SHINTARO 10.2IN MOTION SENSOR FRAME SHDPF102V1

STREET PRICE \$170
CONTACT MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY
PHONE (03) 9837 2500
WEB www.shintaro.com.au

This frame has a 16:9 aspect ratio that results in cropped or letterboxed images. It's a little more forgivable in this larger screen — if you choose to letterbox images, they're at least a decent size — and this one's 16:9 aspect does actually make it better than its 4:3 counterparts for watching movies (there's support for Xvid/DivX and MJPEG .avi files). This frame's unique motion sensor, which switches the screen on or off depending on whether someone is moving nearby, is actually



quite fast and responsive and drops power use from 12W to 5W when the screen is off. Though the LCD is only 800 x 480 pixels, we couldn't see much pixelation and images were generally both bright and naturally coloured.

PC User says: That 16:9 aspect ratio isn't ideal, but otherwise, this frame produced good images in our tests.

KOGAN 10.4IN DIGITAL PHOTO FRAME AND MEDIA PLAYER

RRP \$89 / **CONTACT** KOGAN
PHONE 1300 304 292
WEB www.kogan.com.au

With strong, bright images and good viewing angles, plus (as its comprehensive name suggests) audio and video playback, this 10in Kogan frame does have some initial appeal and its single-piece glossy front also lends it some class. In terms of interface and features, it's largely the same as its 12in sibling and many others here, with a comprehensive if a little aged-looking range of options for configuring photo playback, as well as basic music and video support. As with others using this menu system, there's also auto power on and off by timer,



an alarm as well as brightness, contrast and saturation controls. This unit's biggest issue is caused by its low 640 x 480-pixel resolution: it can suffer from noticeable pixelation, even on 6MP images taken with a DSLR. **PC User says:** The low screen resolution brings down an otherwise OK frame.

SHINTARO 10.4IN DIGITAL PHOTO FRAME SHDPF104V3

STREET PRICE \$145 / **CONTACT** MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY
PHONE (03) 9837 2500 / **WEB** www.shintaro.com.au

This 10.4in frame shares a lot of similarities with the Kogan model of the same size, although they do appear to have different LCD panels. This model displays a yellow-brown tint and only offers 256MB of internal storage, compared to 1GB for the Kogan. The Shintaro uses the same

functional (if not particularly attractive) interface as 70% of the other frames here. Unfortunately, it suffers from the same inherent issue as the Kogan above: it only uses a 640 x 480-pixel panel. As we mentioned, that really isn't enough resolution for displaying sharp, crisp images on a 10in

screen and resulted in many of our test images showing clear pixelation. If you're looking for a biggish frame, we'd go for something higher-resolution.

PC User says: Suffers the same pixelation problems as the Kogan, but isn't as good value.



DIGITAL PHOTO FRAMES: HOW THEY COMPARE

	Digital photo frames under 10in					Digital photo frames over 10in					
	AKAI 7in Digital Photo Frame ADPF07X	AV Labs 8in Digital Photo Frame AVL993	Kaiser Baas 8in Ultra-Slim Digital Photo Frame	Kodak 7in Pulse Digital Frame W730	Shintaro 8in Weather Station Photo Frame SHDPF8W	AVLabs 10.4in Digital Photo Frame with Classic Wooden Frame AVL996	Kaiser Baas 15in Digital Photo Frame	Kogan 10.4in LCD Digital Photo Frame & Media Player	Kogan 12.1in LCD Digital Photo Frame & Media Player	Shintaro 10.4in Digital Photo Frame SHDPF104V3	Shintaro 10.2in Motion Sensor Frame SHDPF102V1
Screen size	7in	8in	8in	7in	8in	10.4in	15in	10.4in	10.4in	10.4in	10.2in
Screen resolution	480 x 234	800 x 600	800 x 600	800 x 600	800 x 600	800 x 600	1,024 x 768	640 x 480	800 x 600	640 x 480	800 x 480
Screen aspect ratio	16:9	4:3	4:3	4:3	4:3	4:3	4:3	4:3	4:3	4:3	16:9
Internal memory	None	None	2GB	512MB	256MB	None	1GB	1GB	1GB	256MB	256MB
Ports	SD, USB	SD/MS, USB	SD/MS, USB	SD/xD/MS/MS Pro, USB	SD/MS, USB	SD/MS/xD, CF, USB	SD/MS, CF, USB	SD/MS, CF, USB	SD/MS, CF, USB	SD/MS, CF, USB	SD/MS, CF, USB
Video support (Xvid/MPEG-4/MJPEG)	No/No/No	No/No/Yes	No/No/No	No/No/No	No/No/Yes	Yes/No/Yes	Yes/Yes/Yes	Yes/No/Yes	Yes/No/Yes	Yes/Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes/Yes
Orientation recognition	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
MP3 playback with image slideshow	No/No	Yes/Yes	No/No	No/No	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes